

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

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January 31, 2022

Dear STARS Review Committee:

Please accept this letter as confirmation of my enthusiastic support for the 2022 Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System submission from the University of California Santa Cruz.

I am extremely proud of UC Santa Cruz's long-standing dedication to sustainability and environmental stewardship, and of our numerous sustainability-related achievements. Though the list of achievements is lengthy, in this letter I have focused on three specific outcomes.

Our campus was recently ranked third in the nation in Princeton Review's Top 50 Green Colleges. It is not the ranking itself that deserves highlighting — though we are extremely proud of the designation — but the overall sustainability policies, practices and programs that collectively earned us this honor. Guided by our Campus Sustainability Plan, which is updated every five years, we seek to advance our green practices by focusing on four areas: Learning and Culture, Materials Management and Food Systems, Natural Environment and Infrastructure, and Climate and Energy. Each area includes specific goals, strategies, and actions to advance our sustainability engagement, practices and planning. This comprehensive approach allows us to constantly goal-set and remain focused on our progress and identify areas for further improvement.

UC Santa Cruz made major strides this year toward meeting the University of California's systemwide 2025 carbon neutrality goal with the completion of a two-megawatt solar parking canopy at our East Remote Parking Lot. The array boosts our use of renewable energy while also reducing our energy bill. It will generate enough power to meet about 6 percent of the total campus electrical load. Our Campus Sustainability Plan calls for the addition of four megawatts of solar photovoltaic to the campus and this new solar array gets the campus halfway to that goal, a goal we hope to surpass in the near future. Our Office of Physical Planning, Development and Operations is currently assessing opportunities for additional solar at our Westside Research Park and Coastal Science Campus in Santa Cruz and at our Monterey Bay Education Science and Technology Center in Marina.

Finally, also deserving of special attention is the innovative research on "inclusive sustainability" taking place through our People of Color Sustainability Collective. Campus leadership partners closely with the collective to spotlight and address local issues pertaining to sustainability such as food security, health, and affordability. This collective disrupts the idea that the university and the formally educated are the gatekeepers of knowledge; acknowledges efforts made by people of color to advance sustainability; recognizes that many sustainability efforts have historically ignored and discriminated against communities of color; embraces different cultural approaches of caring for the environment; and emphasizes intersectional and interdisciplinary approaches. The collective was a 2021 Association for

the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education awards finalist in the Racial Equity and Sustainability Collaborations category.

I am grateful to the many staff members and students who helped gather, analyze and compile this data. We appreciate the opportunity STARS provides us to showcase our successes and create a document that helps us to advance our sustainability efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia K. Larive".

Cynthia K. Larive
Chancellor, UC Santa Cruz